

committed to work with me to ensure this bill is tailored to help the small, independent neighborhood restaurants most in need of help in a fiscally responsible way.

CONFIRMATION OF BARBARA A. LEAF

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, I rise in support of Ambassador Barbara Leaf to be Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern Affairs.

It has been almost 400 days since President Biden announced this nomination to one of the most critical regions in the world when it comes to U.S. foreign policy interests. It is unconscionable that the post has remained vacant for so long.

Since her hearing at the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, the region has only become more complicated. Libya has been stuck in a stalemate since failed elections. In Tunisia, the President sacked the Prime Minister and suspended Parliament in a coup against democratically elected representatives. ISIS remains active in Syria, attacking a prison with guns and car bombs to free extremists earlier this year. A fragile ceasefire in Yemen followed blatant attacks on the UAE and Saudi Arabia by Iranian-backed Houthis using drones and missiles. Our staunch ally Israel is fending off rocket attacks. Iran is engaging in brinksmanship as negotiations drag on over its nuclear program, which has the potential to transform the balance of power in the region. And the Russian war against Ukraine has set off a major global food security crisis across Africa and the Middle East, adding to an already strained humanitarian situation in parts of the region.

Meanwhile, there are opportunities to seize. Our diplomacy in the Negev Summit process is as important as ever. Elections in Lebanon, government formation in Iraq—they are all developments that require deft American diplomacy.

These are some of the most important issues we confront in American foreign policy. We must have our A-team in place to advance American leadership and values. And no one is better suited for this job than Barbara Leaf, a dedicated public servant who devoted her career to the Foreign Service.

She has served as our Ambassador to the United Arab Emirates and Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for the Arabian Peninsula in the Bureau of Near Eastern Affairs. She directed the critical Basrah U.S. Provincial Reconstruction Team on the ground in Iraq, and she was the Department's first Director of the Office of Iranian Affairs. She speaks Arabic, French, Italian, and Serbo-Croatian.

She currently works as the Special Assistant to the President and Senior Director for Middle East and North Africa Affairs on the National Security Council. She is up to speed and ready

to hit the ground running as Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern Affairs.

The Senate's failure to confirm Ambassador Leaf earlier left a critical post vacant and the United States without a strong and powerful advocate for our Nation's interests across the Middle East and around the world. It is long past time for Ambassador Leaf to be in her Senate-confirmed role advancing our interests. I am pleased that Assistant Secretary Leaf can now begin to tackle the many challenges that await her.

VOTE EXPLANATION

Mr. HAWLEY. Mr. President, had there been a recorded vote, I would have voted no on the confirmations of Executive Calendar No. 907, S. Lane Tucker, of Alaska, to be United States Attorney for the District of Alaska or the term of four years; Executive Calendar No. 916, Rachelle L. Crowe, of Illinois, to be United States Attorney for the Southern District of Illinois for the term of four years; Executive Calendar No. 917, Jesse A. Laslovich, of Montana, to be United States Attorney for the District of Montana for the term of four years; Executive Calendar No. 918, Alexander M.M. Uballez, of New Mexico, to be United States Attorney for the District of New Mexico for the term of four years.

RECOGNIZING THE GLOBAL MEDICAL RESPONSE STARS OF LIFE AWARD RECIPIENTS

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. President, in honor of EMS Week, I rise to recognize the 57 Global Medical Response Stars of Life award recipients for 2020 through 2022.

Heroic acts by EMS professionals happen every day across the globe. In the State of Missouri, Global Medical Response has two ground ambulance operations and 12 air ambulance operations stationed strategically to best support our rural communities. Every day, these professionals are called upon, but two instances come to mind that truly illustrate their dedication.

In November of 2020, the air evac lifeteam flight crew—Flight Nurse Lisa Pittman, Flight Paramedic Rayna Periman, and Pilot Randy Varady—out of Perryville were called to action and, within minutes, were at the bedside of a senior diagnosed with an abdominal aortic aneurysm. When time mattered most, this care team made the difference in saving a life.

In February 2021, a high school student driving home from football practice was broadsided by a speeding semitruck. This time, Flight Paramedic Eric Schowe and Flight Nurse Stephanie McMillan were ready at a moment's notice to provide life sustaining care on board the EMS helicopter to help this student beat the odds.

Each year, the American Ambulance Association—AAA—honors and celebrates the most distinguished of Emer-

gency Medical Services professionals for their acts of service, dedication to their communities, and commitment to excellence through the Stars of Life program. Global Medical Response, a member of the AAA and the world's largest provider of emergent and non-emergent medical transportation and healthcare services, recognizes an elite group of individuals, ranging from emergency medical technicians and paramedics, to fire service professionals, nurses, dispatch specialists, and highly-skilled aviators.

To be a Stars of Life award recipient means to go above and beyond the call of duty. It means being ready to help a stranger, both on the ground and in the air with the care they need at that moment. It means always doing what is right for the patient, in every circumstance. To be a Star means to show compassion in the most difficult and humbling moments of a person's life. For some, it means making the ultimate sacrifice.

It is important to remember the ones who are no longer with us but left an indelible mark of excellence on the world. May we never forget their heroism, acts of kindness, and unselfish sacrifice that not only made a difference to the people they helped, but also a lasting impression on the entire Emergency Medical Services community. To their families and dearest loved ones, may you feel peace in knowing their lives will never be forgotten.

The Global Medical Response Stars of Life award recipients and all members of the Emergency Medical Services community at large are a shining light in our post-pandemic world and must be recognized as so. As such, I respectfully request that each of them be included in today's record, to honor their immense contributions and unwavering loyalty to their community while providing care to the world at a moment's notice.

Lauryn Allgood, Flight Nurse of Opelousas, LA

Brad Andrews, EMT of Tucson, AZ
Olga Borozinski, Flight Nurse of Las Vegas, NV

Loretta Burton, Paramedic of Youngstown, OH

Larry Cardwell, Flight Paramedic of Sacramento, CA

Destiny Carter, Paramedic of Colorado Springs, CO

Luke Combs, Pilot of Rosebud, SD
Mathew Cox, Paramedic of Stockton, CA
Amira Drakes, EMT of Trinidad & Tobago
Ismael Esparza, Paramedic of Palm Springs, CA

Peter Gauna, EMT of Stafford, AZ
Holly Griswold, Operations Supervisor of Cochise County, AZ

Scott Hedrick, Paramedic of Evansville, IN
Clifford Jacks, Paramedic of Concord, CA
Adam Martin, Paramedic of Buffalo, NY
Bryan McKeon, Paramedic of Monterey, CA

Will Moser, Regional Manager of Clinical Practices of Juneau, AK

Diana Priego, Flight Nurse of Sacramento, CA

Mathew Scott, Base Pilot Supervisor of Eagle Pass, TX

Mary Springer, LMS National Administrator of North Charleston, SC